

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 DOTE-00 FAA-00 SY-10 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 079301

R 211614Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5772

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO UNN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652:N/A DECON 12/21/74

TAGS: PINS, XF, IT

SUBJECT: FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ALLEGED AUTHORS OF ROME MASSACRE

REF: BEIRUT 14421

SUMMARY: FIRST STATEMENT ISSUED BY GROUP ALLEGED TO BE
BEHIND ROME AIRPORT MASSACRE APPEARED HERE IN INDEPENDENT
AN NAHAR DEC. 21. IT GIVES NO CLUE RE IDENTITY OF FIVE TERRORISTS.
OR OF ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH THEY AFFILIATED. INSTEAD, IT AT-
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EMPTS EXPLAIN MOTIVE BEHIND ATTACK, THREATENS THOSE EUROPEAN

GOVTS. STILL HOLDING FEDAYEEN, AND WARNS AMERICAN GOVT. AND PEOPLE OF CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN PORTIONS OF STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT:

TWO SUICIDE UNITS NAMED AFTER HERO-MARTYRS ABU'AL IYAD AND 'ABD AL MUN'IM RIAD (LATE EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF KILLED IN 1969) CARRIED OUT ROME OPERATION DEC 17. THEY OCCUPIED AIRPORT, WITH ONE UNIT ATTACKING PAN AM AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO OUR ENEMY AND SHOWERING IT WITH INCENDIARY BOMBS. AT SAME TIME, ANOTHER UNIT COMMANDEERED LUFTHANSA AIRLINER AND FORCED ITS CREW TO TAKE OFF. . . (WHEN) AIRCRAFT FINALLY LANDED AT KUWAIT, OUR BROTHERS SURRENDERED THEMSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH FRATERNAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED (WITH GOK AUTHORITIES). OPERATION ACHIEVED ALL ITS OBJECTIVES SUCCESSFULLY. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION GIVE FINAL WARNING TO ALL EUROPEAN STATES WHICH STILL HOLD FEDAYEEN IN THEIR PRISONS TO FREE THEM BEFORE END OF THIS MONTH. OTHERWISE, THEIR INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS WILL BE CONSIDERED HOSTILE AND AS TARGETS FOR STRIKES BY OUR REVOLUTIONARY HEROES.

ONCE AGAIN WE TURN TO YOU, GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE, TO REMIND YOU OF OUR STATEMENT OF AUG 5, WHEN TWO OF OUR HEROES ATTACKED PASSENGERS OF YOUR AIRCRAFT AT ATHENS AIRPORT. WE ASKED YOU TO REDUCE YOUR ABSOLUTE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. . . WE HOPED YOU WOULD RECONSIDER YOUR ATTITUDE AND AT LEAST STAND NEUTRAL BETWEEN US AND OUR ENEMY. BUT AS SOON AS OCTOBER WAR BEGAN, YOUR GOVT. AND PRESIDENT SHOWED THEIR FANGS BY MOUNTING AIR AND SEA LIFT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TOOLS OF DESTRUCTION AND HUMAN REINFORCEMENTS TO THE ISRAELI USURPERS. THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS WHO DIED IN SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE DIRECT VICTIMS OF YOUR GOVT'S MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE WAR, AND ENEMY'S OCCUPATION OF MORE THAN A THOUSAND SQUARE KMS. IN DEVERSOIR (WEST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL) AREA WAS ANOTHER DIRECT RESULT OF THAT INTERVENTION. THIS IS WHY OUR OPERATION WAS CALLED "DEVERSOIR OPERATION". YOUR GOVT. EXPLOITED EUROPEAN AIRPORTS, INCLUDING ROME, TO TRANSPORT ARMS, AMMUNITION AND VOLUNTEERS TO USURPERS, AND THAT IS WHY WE CHOSE ROME AIRPORT AS TARGET. ONE FINAL WORD FOR YOU: AS LONG AS YOUR GOVT. INSISTS ON CRUSHING AND HUMILIATING US AND ON CONTINUING TO CONSOLIDATED OFFICIAL USE

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DATE USURPING ENTITY IN PALESTINE, WE SHALL FULFILL PLEDGE MADE TO OUR NATION TO PURSUE YOU, GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE AND AT ALL TIMES, AND STRIKE AND CRUSH YOU. END TEXT.

2. STATEMENT, WHICH SIGNED BY "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE", CONCLUDES BY CRITICIZING ARAB AND FOREIGN MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR CONDEMNING ROME OPERATION. SAID SUCH CONDEMNATION "WILL NOT LESSEN OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE"

AND CALLED ON ARABS (AND, IMPLICITLY, FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP) NOT TO CONDEMN "YOUR BROTHERS WHO FOUGHT BESIDE YOU IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AT AJLOUN".

3. COMMETOAG WN NAHAR DID NOT EBPLAIN HOW OR FROM WHOM IT OBTAINED ABOVE STATEMENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR DOUBTING ITS AUTHENTIVITY AND TEND TO REGARD IO AS BONAFIDE, AS DO OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES. WE BELIEVE ROME AIRPORT MASSACRE, COUPLED WITH SYRIAN DECISION NOT GO TO GENEVA, PRESAGES TACTICAL SWING BY FATAH AND OTHER RELATIVELY REASONABLE FEDAYEEN LEADERS BACK TOWARD MORE HARD-LINE APPROACH, AWAY FROM IDEA OF AQQEPTING REALITY (INCLUDING POSSIBLE INDEPENDENT WEST BANK/GAZA STATE AND ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE).
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